



# Legislative Council Staff

## Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 06/21/16

### Bill Number

**House Bill 16-1103**

### Sponsors

***Representatives Kraft-Tharp & Landgraf,  
Senators Martinez Humenik & Todd***

### Short Title

***License Pathways For Mental Health Workforce***

### Research Analyst

**Anne Wallace (x4364)**

### Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, and becomes effective on January 1, 2017.

### Summary

The bill specifies that candidates seeking licensure as a mental health professional may, but are not required to, register with the database of registered psychotherapists after completing their degree. Mental health professionals covered by the bill include psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and any other individual enrolled in a professional training program at an approved school actively working toward licensure.

The bill clarifies that a candidate seeking a mental health license must "have completed" (rather than "hold") a degree in order to fulfill the educational requirements for licensure.

### Background

The Division of Professions and Occupations within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) regulates mental health professionals. Of the six mental health professions, psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors must be licensed; addiction counselors may be licensed or certified, depending on their credentials; and psychotherapists must be registered.

*This research note was prepared by Legislative Council Staff, the nonpartisan research staff for the Colorado General Assembly. The research note is provided for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as an official record of action by the General Assembly. Legislative Council Staff are not attorneys, and the research note is not a legal opinion. If you have legal questions about the bill, including questions about the meaning of the bill language or amendments, please contact the drafter.*

## House Action

**House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee (February 9, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from the National Association of Social Workers - Colorado Chapter and the Colorado Counseling Association testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted amendments L.003 and L.004 and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Appropriations Committee. Amendment L.003 clarified that candidates for a mental health profession are not required to register with the database of registered psychologists, and removed sections of the bill regarding hours accrued for licensure. Amendment L.004 removed references in the bill to definitions of specific types of mental health professionals.

**House Appropriations Committee (March 4, 2016).** The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

**House second reading (March 7, 2016).** The House adopted the House Public Health Care and Human Services committee report and passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

**House third reading (March 8, 2016).** The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

## Senate Action

**Senate Health and Human Services Committee (March 17, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from the National Association of Social Workers - Colorado Chapter, the Colorado Counseling Association, and Regis University testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

**Senate second reading (March 22, 2016).** The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

**Senate third reading (March 24, 2016).** The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.